

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 03838 100250Z
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05
L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 EPG-02 AID-05
SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02
OMB-01 /096 W
-----100658Z 106519 /14

R 100211Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3781
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD KS
SUBJ: NON-RUBBER FOOTWEAR CONSULTATION WITH JAPAN

1. TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THEIR PROXIMITY TO TOKYO, STEPHAN LANDE OF STR AND SOME MEMBERS OF THE FOOTWEAR TEAM CONSULTED ON MAY 8 WITH SEVERAL JAPANESE OFFICIALS LED BY FUKADA OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. WITHOUT GOING INTO THE DETAILS OF THE AGREEMENTS BEING NEGOTIATED, LANDE PROVIDED BACKGROUND ON WHY THE U.S. WAS SEEKING RESTRAINT AGREEMENT ON ONLY WITH THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND CHINA. HE NOTED THAT THERE WOULD BE AN EQUITY CLAUSE IN THESE AGREEMENTS TO PREVENT THIRD COUNTRY SUPPLIERS FROM TAKING ADVANTAGE OF RESTRAINTS BY KOREA AND THE ROC. AND QUESTIONED THE JAPANESE ON PROJECTIONS OF THEIR FUTURE NON-RUBBER FOOTWEAR SHIPMENTS TO THE U.S.

2. THE JAPANESE OFFICIALS HAD NO OFFICIAL FORECASTS TO OFFER BUT THEY ALL AGREED THAT THERE WAS NOT MUCH POSSIBILITY OF SURGES OF
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JAPANESE EXPORTS TO THE U.S. BECAUSE THE HIGH PRICES OF JAPANESE SHOES WOULD LIMIT EXPANSION OF JAPANESE EXPORTS. TEHY SAID THE JAPANESE SHOE EXPORTERS WOULD ONLY HOPE TO MAINTAIN THEIR CURRENT POSITION OF SOMEWHERE BETWEEN ONE AND TWO PERCENT OF TOTAL U.S. IMPORTS.

3. THE JAPANESE OFFICIALS DID NOT SEEM TO BE TROUBLED BY U.S.

ACTION BUT EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN THAT TOO LARGE A ROLLBACK OF U.S. IMPORTS FROM KOREA AND THE ROC. COULD RESULT IN SUBSTANTIAL DIVERSION TO THE JAPANESE MARKET. THE JAPANESE EXPLAINED THAT WHILE JAPAN HAD IMPORT RESTRICTIONS AGAINST CERTAIN TYPES OF LEATHER FOOTWEAR BECAUSE OF SPECIAL PROBLEMS WITH AN ETHNIC MINORITY (THE ETA), VINYL FOOTWEAR, SUCH AS THAT PRODUCED BY TAIWAN, WAS NOT RESTRICTED. THE JAPANESE OFFICIALS ALSO HOPED THAT ANY LIMITATIONS ON KOREAN AND ROC. EXPORTS TO THE U.S. WOULD BE TERMINATED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BECAUSE INCREASED FOOTWEAR EXPORTS TO JAPAN COULD CREATE PRESSURE BY JAPANESE SHOE PRODUCERS FOR FURTHER PROTECTION. U.S. TEAM RESPONDED THAT WHILE APPRECIATING THE DIVERSION PROBLEM, IMPORTS REPRESENTED 50 PERCENT OF THE U.S. MARKET AND AS JAPAN WAS A LONG WAY FROM APPROACHING ANYWHERE NEAR THAT LEVEL, WE HOPED THAT GOJ, HAD A SUFFICIENT MARGIN TO KEEP JAPANESE PROTECTIONIST FORCES IN CHECK.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RUBBER, FOOTWEAR, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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